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United States Senate

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COMMITTEES
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October 17, 2023

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to cosponsor the attached resolution condemning Hamas and antisemitic student activities on college campuses in the United States. We must stand together with Israel and against hateful, violent rhetoric that threatens the safety and security of Jewish Americans in the United States.

As you know, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded Israel and committed barbaric acts of terrorism resulting in the mass murder of at least 1,400 Israeli civilians, including children and infants. At least thirty U.S. citizens have been killed, and over a dozen are still missing. In the immediate aftermath of this surprise attack, most Americans united together in bipartisan support for the people of Israel and demonstrated solidarity with Jewish Americans whose lives have been directly and tragically impacted by these events.

But not on college campuses. Instead, radical student organizations at Harvard, New York University, and elsewhere have praised Hamas and justified these genocidal acts of terrorism against Israel. Students at Harvard University wrote that they “hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for the unfolding violence.” Pro-Hamas students at the University of Virginia called the mass murder of civilians an “unprecedented feat for the 21st century.” Columbia University had to close its campus to the public after an Israeli student was assaulted. Of course, every American has the right under the First Amendment to express his or her own views on matters of political concern—no matter how offensive or repugnant. But that does not mean we need to condone these morally repugnant statements or stand silent while radical student groups in our country falsely equate the malicious actions of Hamas with Israel’s right to self-defense. Here in the Senate, we can and we should condemn this hateful rhetoric and set an example. There must be moral clarity.

My resolution unequivocally condemns Hamas and the hateful, antisemitic rhetoric that the recent terrorist attack has inspired on our college campuses. This is particularly urgent given the rise in threats against Jewish Americans across our country. I invite you to join me in standing with Israel and against hate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley
United States Senator